

# Curriculum Vitae

**DR. BITASTA DAS**  
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## ***Education***

### **Manipal University, Manipal**

Ph.D. in Cultural Studies (2014)

Thesis title: Unravelling Ethnic Tensions: Colonialism, Post-Colonialism and the Question of Identity in Assam

Supervisor: Prof. Sitharamam Kakarala

<http://ir.inflibnet.ac.in:8080/jspui/handle/10603/33043>

### **Tezpur University**

M.A. in Cultural Studies (2003)

First Class First Position

### **Gauhati University**

B.Sc in Botany (2000)

First Class Twenty-Sixth Position

## ***Awards, Fellowships and Grants***

Gold Medal for first class first position in Masters of Arts (2003)

National Eligibility Test (NET) in Folk Literature. Ref. no. 1871 (December 2002)

Archival Research Fellowship Papiya Ghosh Memorial Trust, Centre for the Study of Social Sciences Calcutta, Kolkata (2008-2009)

Grant of Rupees two lakhs from Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) for conducting National seminar on “Methodological Aspects of Knowledge Production in Pre-Modern India” (January 2015)

Grant of Rupees forty thousand from Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) for conducting National seminar on “Methodological Aspects of Knowledge Production in Pre-Modern India” (January 2015)

Grant of Rupees twenty thousand from Indian National Science Academy (INSA) for conducting National seminar on “Methodological Aspects of Knowledge Production in Pre-Modern India” (January 2015)

## ***Employment***

2014-Present	Instructor, Undergraduate Programme, Centre for Contemporary Studies, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.
2013-2014	Research Associate, Undergraduate Programme, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

2011-2013	Project Assistant, Centre for Contemporary Studies, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.
2009-2010	Research Associate, Jackfruit Research and Design Pvt. Ltd, Bangalore.
2008-2008	Documentation and Archive Assistant, Sri Ratan Tata Trust for Higher Education, Bangalore.
2006-2008	Research Assistant, Centre for the Study of Culture and Society Digital Archive, Bangalore.
2005-2006	Teaching Assistant, Centre for the Study of Culture and Society M.A. Online Programme, Bangalore.

### ***Publications***

P. Radhika, Das Bitasta, Srinivasan Shashikala and Raghavan Malavika (ed.). *Culture Industries, Cultural Diversity and Cultural Policies in the Time of Globalization*. Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, Alternative Law Forum and HIVOS. Bangalore 2008.

Garimella Annapurna, Vincent Lina and Das Bitasta. *Traditional to Contemporary: Journey of Madhubani Painting*, Jackfruit Research and Design, Bangalore, 2009.  
(Five Catalogue Entries) *Vernacular in the Contemporary-I*, Devi Arts Foundation, Gurgaon 2010.

“The Question of Ethnicity in Assam: Ethnic Upheavals and the Ethnic Discourse”. *Social Science Probing*. Vol. 22, No. 1. Indian Council of Historical Research. June 2010.

“Presence of Illegal Immigrants in Contemporary Assam: Analyzing the Political History of the ‘Problem’”. *Eastern Quarterly*. Volume 7, Issue III and IV. Manipur Research Forum. New Delhi. 2011.

“The Bodo Movement and Situating the Identity Assertions in Assam”, *Pragmata International Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*. Volume 2, Issue 2. Tumkur University. June 2014.

“ULFA’s Xhonor Axom and Negation of the State”, *Artha: Journal of Social Sciences*. Volume 31, Number 31, Issue 4. Christ University. October 2014.

### ***Conference papers***

“‘Ethnic’ Assertions in Contemporary Assam”. *Young Researcher’s Workshop*, organized by Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore January 2007.

“Question of Identity and Ethnic Assertions in Assam: Contribution of Colonial Ethnic Discourse”. *Minority Cultures*, organized by Centre for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta, Kolkata, June 2009.

“Understanding the Question of Identity in Assam through the ‘Ethnic’ Concept”. *Exploring the Margins*, organized by Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, September 2009.

“The Question of Ethnicity in Assam: Ethnic Upheavals and the Ethnic Discourse”. *Young Researcher’s Workshop*, organized by Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore March 2010.

## *Curriculum Vitae*

“Revisiting the Two Cultures and Negotiating the Boundaries”. *International Conference on Language, Literature and Culture*, organized by Institute of Advanced Studies in English, University of Pune, December 2014.

“North-East India and Identity Assertions: Unravelling the Ethnic Discourse. *International Conference on 'Reimagining India's North East: Networks, Narratives and Negotiations*, organized by Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research, Jamia Millia Islamia University, February 2015.

### ***Invited talks***

“Politics of Belonging: the Communal Conflict in Assam’s Bodoland Region”, organized by Conflict Resolution Programme, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, August 2012.

“Unravelling Ethnic Tensions: A Study of Contemporary Conflicts in Assam”, Seminar Series, Institute of Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, March 2014.

“Distracted Inventor” Consultation on New Figures of Learning in the Digital Context Researchers at Work (RAW), Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore, September 2014.

“Nation and Culture” Seminar for National Talent Search Examination students, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, October 2014.

“Science and Humanities: Exploring the Intersection”. Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology-Ropar, Ropar, February 2015.

### ***Courses designed and taught***

Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

Teaching and Design of course “Mapping India through the Folk Arts”

Co-ordinator and Teaching Assistant for six semesters the Undergraduate-Humanities courses.

Art Resources and Teaching Trust, Bangalore

Assisted in developing the coursework Temples of India for M.Phil Students, JNU

Prepared the module “Cultures of Medieval India” for Social Studies of Standard VII for iDiscovery.

Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore

Creating the course material for M.A. Online students for Cultural Studies.

Conduct online classes for the paper Debates in Cultural Studies.

### ***Other job experiences***

Centre for Contemporary Studies, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

General administration including organization of seminars, workshops, conferences and independent lectures to foster dialogues across disciplines among national and international scholars from various fields.

Jackfruit Research and Design Pvt. Ltd. Bangalore

Project Manager and Co-Curator of the exhibition “Vernacular in the Contemporary” for the Devi Arts Foundation bringing together more than sixty folk artists across India. Gurgaon. December 2010.

Co-Curated the exhibition “Traditional to Contemporary: Journey of Madhubani Paintings” in Time and Space art gallery, Bangalore. March 2010.

Sri Ratan Tata Trust for Higher Education, Centre for the study of Culture and Society, Bangalore  
Research on news, policies and debates on higher education.  
Documenting information relevant to higher education for the archive.  
Maintaining the web pages and online information.

### ***Languages known***

Reading, writing, speaking knowledge of Assamese, Hindi, English, Bengali; working knowledge in Russian.

### ***Participated and Volunteered***

Spastic Society of Karnataka, educational support for young children.

Taught Social Studies, English and Mathematics to 9th and 10th Standard students for six months at St. Joseph’s Convent, Tezpur in 2000.

Participated in World Youth Peace Summit, 2003 organized by International Association for Human Values.

Took active part in the literacy drive among the slums in Tezpur, Assam 1995-2003.

Organized camps for scientific awareness programmes in the various rural areas of Assam, 1999-2000.

Organized camps on health and hygiene for the women in the slums in Tezpur. 1997-2000.

Took part in environment consciousness programmes among the school children. 1997-2000.

Organized personality development course for the prisoners of Tezpur Central Jail. 2002.

Compered in a number of functions organized by Sangeet Natak Academy. 1995-2000.

Winner of inter-district Flower Arrangement competition organized by Assam Horticulture Society, three years consecutively. 2000-2003.

### ***References***

Prof. Raghavendra Gadagkar  
President, Indian National Science Academy  
INSA SN Bose Research Professor and JC Bose National Fellow,  
Centre for Ecological Sciences,  
Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore - 560 012, India  
Chairman, Centre for Contemporary Studies, IISc, Bangalore  
Honorary Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research  
Non-resident Permanent Fellow, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin  
Foreign Associate, National Academy of Sciences, USA  
Honorary Professor, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Kolkata

## *Curriculum Vitae*

Chairman, Research Council for History of Science, Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi

Email: ragh@ces.iisc.ernet.in

Prof. Sitharamam Kakarala

(Ph.D Supervisor)

Vice Chancellor,

Glocal University,

Saharanpur ,

Uttar Pradesh

Email: k.sitharamam@gmail.com

Prof. Rajan Gurukkal

Sundararajan Visiting Professor,

Indian Institute of Science,

Former Vice Chancellor,

Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala

Email: rgurukkal@gmail.com